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Department of State

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TELEGRAM

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ACTION ACDA-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 SS-20 PM-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-03 IO-13 CCO-00 FILE-01 SSO-00 P-03  
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P 091641Z DEC 69

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2244

S E C R E T HELSINKI 1529

SALTO 92

SUBJECT: PRESS DEVELOPMENTS

1. ON DECEMBER 4, SOVIET SALT REPRESENTATIVE KISHILOV RAISED QUESTION OF RECENT AMERICAN PRESS LEAKS ON SALT, REMARKING ON BAD EFFECTS AND INQUIRING IN SERIOUS TONE WHETHER WE WERE AWARE OF SOURCE. GARTHOFF REPLIED THAT WE WERE EQUALLY CONCERNED, AND HAD ATTEMPTED TO EXERCISE VERY STRICT CONTROL ON LEAKAGE OF SALT MATTERS TO THE PRESS. WHEN ASKED, KISHILOV SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE SOURCE OF SUCH LEAKS.

2. AT TIME OF AGREEMENT ON DECEMBER 6 TO PUT OFF SCHEDULED GENERAL SALT MEETING PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 8, QUESTION OF HANDLING PRESS INQUIRIES WAS NOT CONSIDERED. HOWEVER, IN LATE MORNING DECEMBER 8, AFTER PRESS HAD BECOME AWARE OF FACT THAT AMERICAN DELEGATION CARS DID NOT APPEAR AT SOVIET EMBASSY, OUR DELEGATION COORDINATED WITH SOVIET DELEGATION ON PRESS LINE THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED TO PUT OFF USUAL GENERAL MEETING, AND THAT CONTACTS WERE TAKING PLACE AT THE WORKING LEVEL, AS MOST EXPEDITIOUS MEANS OF PROCEEDING AT THAT STAGE. IN RETROSPECT, IT APPEARS THAT SOVIET SPOKESMEN ON THE SPOT PROBABLY TOLD INQUIRING PRESS REPORTERS THAT POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING NOT REPEAT NOT AT THEIR INITIATIVE. LATER ON MONDAY, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE AMERICAN WIRE SERVICE CORRESPONDENT, TASS REPRESENTATIVE REMARKED INFORMALLY TO HIM AND EVIDENTLY TO OTHERS, THAT AMERICAN SIDE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CANCELLATION OF THE MORNING MEETING, AND THAT THIS

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State Dept. review completed

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 01529 091707Z  
WAS TOO BAD BECAUSE THINGS HAD BEEN (SIC) GOING SO WELL. AFTER  
THIS BECAME KNOWN TO OUR DELEGATION ON TUESDAY MORNING, WE  
PROTESTED TO SOVIET DELEGATION (GARTHOFF TO KISHILOV AND  
GRINEVSKY) ON THIS EVIDENT VIOLATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING.  
THEY ASSURED US THAT SOVIET SALT REPRESENTATIVES HAD ADHERED  
STRICTLY TO THE AGREED LINE, AND PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE.

3. PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF EARLIER SOVIET INQUIRY REPORTED  
PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE, AND EXTENSIVE NATURE OF RECENT WASHINGTON  
PRESS COMMENTARY ON SALT DEVELOPMENTS, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH  
THINGS AS RECENT MARDER AND FINNEY ARTICLES. SIMILARLY, WE  
ARE CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTED STATEMENT BY "WHITE HOUSE SOURCES"  
QUOTED IN TODAY'S WIRELESS FILE AS CONFIRMING SENATOR FULBRIGHT'S  
ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS AND ADDING COMMENTARY TO  
EFFECT THAT BOTH SOVIET UNION AND US HAVE PUT FORWARD A SERIES  
OF SOPHISTICATED PROPOSALS TO LIMIT THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.  
WE ALSO CONCERNED THAT REPORT TO EFFECT THAT FULBRIGHT COMMITTEE  
WILL HOLD HEARINGS ON ANY AGREEMENT REACHED AT HELSINKI AND  
RECOMMEND ON RATIFICATION MAY LEAD TO TOTALLY UNWARRANTED  
EXPECTATIONS AS TO ACHIEVEMENTS POSSIBLE AT HELSINKI.  
SMITH

SECRET